

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. A packaged diaper, comprising:

a diaper, having a first, nominal volumetric configuration characterized by a nominal length and width of the diaper, and a second, reduced volumetric configuration characterized by a foldedly reduced length and width of the diaper; and

an encasement formed of a substantially air-impermeable material;

the diaper being disposed in the encasement in the second, reduced volumetric configuration;

the encasement being sealed and at least partially evacuated of air so as to contain the diaper in at least a partial vacuum state, differential pressure within and without the encasement maintaining the second, reduced volumetric configuration; and

the packaged diaper being of pocketable size and configured so that the diaper can return to its nominal volumetric configuration upon opening of the encasement.

2. The packaged diaper of claim 1, wherein the foldedly reduced length and width of the diaper are each less than about 1/2 of the nominal length and width, respectively, of the diaper.

3. The packaged diaper of claim 1, wherein the foldedly reduced length of the diaper is less than about 1/3 of the nominal length of the diaper.

4. The packaged diaper of claim 1, wherein the foldedly reduced length of the diaper is less than about 1/4 of the nominal length of the diaper.

5. The packaged diaper of claim 1, wherein the diaper comprises a disposable diaper.
6. The packaged diaper of claim 1, wherein the reduced volumetric configuration of the diaper comprises a substantially rectangular shape.
7. A packaged diaper, comprising:
  - a diaper, having a first, nominal configuration characterized by a nominal length, width and thickness, and a second, reduced configuration characterized by a reduced length and width;
    - the reduced length being between about 2 inches to about 4 inches, the reduced width being between about 1.0 inch to about 2.5 inches, and the thickness in the second, reduced configuration being between about 0.5 inches to about 1.5 inches; and
    - a restraint, in which the diaper is disposed and retained in the second, reduced configuration.
8. The packaged diaper of claim 7, wherein the reduced length and width of the diaper are each less than about 1/2 of the nominal length and width, respectively, of the diaper.
9. The packaged diaper of claim 7, wherein the reduced length of the diaper is less than about 1/3 of the nominal length of the diaper.
10. The packaged diaper of claim 7, wherein the reduced length of the diaper is less than about 1/4 of the nominal length of the diaper.
11. The packaged diaper of claim 7, wherein the diaper comprises a disposable diaper.

12. A packaged diaper, comprising:

a diaper, having a first, nominal size, and a second, reduced size, the reduced size of the diaper being pocket-size, convenient for carriage and storage of the diaper; and  
an encasement;

the diaper being disposed in the encasement in the second, reduced size, the encasement confining the diaper so that the diaper is retained in its reduced size by the encasement and so that the diaper is returned to its nominal size upon opening of the encasement.

13. The packaged diaper of claim 12, wherein the reduced, convenient size of the diaper is less than about 1/2 of the nominal size of the diaper.

14. The packaged diaper of claim 12, wherein the reduced, convenient size of the diaper is less than about 1/3 of the nominal size of the diaper.

15. The packaged diaper of claim 12, wherein the reduced, convenient size of the diaper is less than about 1/4 of the nominal size of the diaper.

16. A packaged diaper, comprising:

a diaper, having a nominal, substantially rectangular shape, and a reduced, substantially cylindrical shape;

the reduced, substantially cylindrical shape having a diameter being between about 0.5 inches to about 1.5 inches and a length being between about 2 inches to about 4 inches; and

a restraint, in which the diaper is disposed and retained in the reduced, substantially cylindrical shape, the restraint being configured to be openable to release the diaper, which thereafter returns to its nominal shape.

17. The packaged diaper of claim 16, wherein the diaper comprises a disposable diaper.

18. A method of packaging a diaper, comprising the steps of:

folding the diaper at least once along both a lengthwise and a crosswise aspect of the diaper;

disposing the folded diaper within an encasement comprised of a substantially air-impermeable material;

evacuating air from the encasement and the folded diaper creating a pocket-sized diaper configured to be expandable for use upon opening of the encasement by a user; and

sealing the encasement to maintain a relative vacuum created within the encasement and the folded diaper, so as to maintain said diaper in a pocketable sized state.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of folding the diaper at least once along both a lengthwise and a crosswise aspect of the diaper comprises the further step of folding the diaper at least a second time along both the lengthwise and crosswise aspect of the diaper.

20. A method of packaging a diaper, comprising the steps of:
- volumetrically reducing a size of the diaper to a size convenient for carriage and storage of the diaper;
  - disposing the volumetrically reduced diaper within an encasement; and
  - maintaining the volumetrically reduced size of the diaper with the encasement.
21. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of maintaining the volumetrically reduced size of the diaper includes the step of maintaining the volumetrically reduced size with a pressure differential acting upon the encasement.
22. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of volumetrically reducing the size of the diaper to the size convenient for carriage and storage of the diaper comprises the further step of folding the diaper into a substantially rectangular shape.
23. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of volumetrically reducing the size of the diaper to the size convenient for carriage and storage of the diaper comprises the further step of rolling the diaper into a substantially cylindrical shape.
24. The method of claim 20, wherein the pressure differential acting upon the encasement is created by forming a vacuum within the encasement and sealing the encasement.
25. A packaged diaper, comprising:
- an encasement configured to surround and confine a diaper disposed therein;

a diaper, disposed within the encasement and confined by the encasement in a size that is volumetrically reduced relative to a nominal size of the diaper;

the volumetrically reduced size of the diaper being characterized in that the diaper is pocketable upon a person of an individual.

26. A packaged diaper, comprising:

a densified diaper being reduced to a second, reduced density from a first, nominal density, the reduced density of the diaper being densified in at least two dimensional directions relative to the nominal density; and

an encasement;

the diaper being disposed in the encasement in the second, reduced density;

the encasement confining the diaper so that the diaper is retained in the reduced density by the encasement.

27. An expandable diaper, comprising:

a diaper being reduced to a second, reduced size from a first, nominal size, the reduced size of the diaper being reduced in at least two dimensional directions relative to the nominal size; and

an encasement;

the diaper being disposed in the encasement in the second, reduced size;

the encasement confining the diaper so that the diaper is retained in the reduced size by the encasement.

28. A packaged diaper, comprising:

a diaper, having a first, nominal size, and a second, reduced size, the reduced size of the diaper being convenient for carriage and storage of the diaper; and

a restraint;

the diaper being disposed in the restraint in the second, reduced size;

the restraint confining the diaper so that the diaper is retained in its reduced size by the restraint and so that the diaper is returned to its nominal size upon opening of the restraint.

29. A diaper kit, comprising:

a packaged diaper according to any of claims 1, 7, 12, 16, 25, 26, 27 and 28;

at least one diaper accessory; and

a container, in which each of the packaged diaper and the diaper accessory are disposed.

30. The kit of claim 29, wherein the container is substantially rectangular in shape.

31. The kit of claim 29, wherein the container is substantially cylindrical in shape.

32. The kit of claim 29, wherein the diaper accessory includes moist wipes, the moist wipes arranged in a toroidal configuration for disposal within the cylindrical container.

33. The kit of claim 30, further comprising a plurality of containers, each stacked vertically in a master container, the master container including a removable access panel through which one of the plurality of containers can be accessed.

34. The kit of claim 33, wherein a bottom of the access panel is disposed in the master container in a location vertically displaced from a bottom of the master container by a distance substantially equal to a height of the plurality of containers.

35. An infant care kit, comprising:

a diaper;

a diaper accessory;

a portion of infant food; and

an infant feeding assembly having a hollow body and a food delivery device coupleable thereto: the diaper, diaper accessory, and portion of infant food each being disposed in the infant feeding assembly;

the infant feeding assembly being configured to: i) contain each of the diaper, diaper accessory and portion of infant food; and ii) upon removal of the diaper and diaper accessory, receive the portion of infant food within the hollow body and deliver the infant food to an infant with the food delivery device.

36. The kit of claim 35, wherein the hollow body of the feeding assembly is substantially cylindrical in shape.

37. The kit of claim 35, wherein the portion of infant food includes powdered baby formula.

38. The kit of claim 35, wherein the portion of infant food includes condensed baby formula.

39. The kit of claim 35, further comprising a heat source, disposed within the feeding assembly, the heat source configured to provide heat for warming the portion of infant food.
40. The kit of claim 35, further comprising an outer container in which the infant feeding assembly is disposed, the outer container being configured to receive and protect the feeding assembly.
41. The kit of claim 40, wherein the outer container and the feeding assembly each include a substantially cylindrical shape.
42. A packaged diaper, comprising:
- a diaper, having a first, nominal volumetric configuration and a second, reduced volumetric configuration; and
  - an encasement formed of a substantially air-impermeable material;
  - the diaper being disposed in the encasement in the second, reduced volumetric configuration;
  - the encasement being sealed and at least partially evacuated of air so as to contain the diaper in at least a partial vacuum state.
43. A packaged diaper, comprising:
- a single-use diaper, having a first, nominal volumetric configuration and a second, reduced volumetric configuration; and

an encasement formed of a substantially air-impermeable material; the diaper being disposed in the encasement in the second, reduced volumetric configuration;

the encasement being sealed and at least partially evacuated of air so as to contain the diaper in at least a partial vacuum state.

44. A diaper package, comprising:

a plurality of diapers, each having a first, nominal volumetric configuration and a second, reduced volumetric configuration; and

an encasement formed of a substantially air-impermeable material;

each of the plurality of diapers being disposed in the encasement in the second, reduced volumetric configuration;

the encasement being sealed and at least partially evacuated of air so as to contain the plurality of diapers in at least a partial vacuum state.